

# On the Factors Influencing Human Value

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**Abstract.** When it comes to the influencing factors of personal value, we delve into a complex research field in sociology. Personal value, as a key social concept, not only involves an individual's internal experience, but also involves social structure, cultural inheritance, and social relationships. In recent years, with the increasing attention to happiness and self-awareness, research on personal value has also received widespread attention. Therefore, this article will explore the influencing factors of personal value from multiple perspectives, utilizing relevant factors such as culture, family, education, society, and the internet to work together to shape an individual's self-awareness, beliefs, and social status. Through a comprehensive study of these factors, we can have a more complete and comprehensive understanding of the formation and evolution of personal value.

**Keywords:** personal value; Influencing factors; Culture; Family; education society network.

## 1. Introduction

Personal value is a highly focused topic in the field of sociology, which involves core beliefs and principles that influence individual behavior, decision-making, and social interaction. With the continuous evolution of society, the impact of personal value on explaining human behavior and social changes is becoming increasingly prominent. This review will systematically explore the definition, importance, and classification of personal value from previous studies, and propose some summarized viewpoints.

## 2. The definition and importance of personal value

The definition of personal value is multidimensional, encompassing individuals' beliefs and principles in moral, cultural, social, and psychological aspects. These values shape people's attitudes, behaviors, and ways of social participation. Personal value is not only influenced by factors such as culture, education, and family background, but also largely determines how individuals interact with the world around them.

Personal value plays an important role in an individual's life. Firstly, personal values influence an individual's attitude and behavior. Individual values determine their reactions and handling of various situations. For example, an individual who values fairness and morality may be more inclined to adopt upright and just behavior, while an individual who values personal interests may be more inclined to pursue self-interest. Personal values can also affect the way they evaluate and interact with others, thereby affecting the establishment and maintenance of social relationships. Secondly, personal values have a significant impact on individual social participation and change. Individual values determine their attitudes and actions towards social issues and changes. Some individuals may be more inclined to actively participate in social activities, promote social change and improvement, while others may be more inclined to be conservative and conservative, resisting change. Individual values can also affect their level of trust and support for social groups and institutions, thereby affecting the stability and development of society. Finally, conflicts and differences in personal values are also important topics in sociological research. The differences in values between different individuals and groups may lead to conflicts of values and social contradictions. The study of personal value contributes to a deeper understanding of the interaction between individuals and society, as well as the development and transformation of society.

### **3. Previous research on the influencing factors of personal value**

Previous studies have focused on the influencing factors of personal value, which can be roughly divided into the following themes: cultural influence, family, social background, and online media.

#### **3.1 The Impact of Culture on Personal Values**

Firstly, cultural influence is widely recognized as one of the important factors shaping personal values. People from different cultural backgrounds accept different values and moral norms, which are internalized during personal growth and have a profound impact on their behavior and decision-making. Researchers have made significant progress in exploring personal values in different cultural backgrounds. Research has found that traditional Chinese culture has extremely strong collectivist characteristics, advocating the combination of personal interests and social interests, and the realization of personal values is greater than benefits. When there is a conflict between morality and interests, the choice to maximize personal value is morality. Even if personal interests are harmed or completely lost, the realization of personal value under this moral principle is higher than the realization of personal interests. But Western culture pursues an individual's material and spiritual life, believing that personal interests should be the main factor determining behavior. It advocates that all values are centered around human interests, and the individual itself has the highest value. In other words, personal value itself is the self realization of personality, and the individual is the highest goal of life. The importance of emphasizing individual freedom and individual rights[1]. By comparing the differences between Chinese and Western cultures, it can be concluded that there are significant differences in personal value orientations under different cultural backgrounds. Culture, as a core factor, greatly affects an individual's value orientation, elucidating the profound role that cultural background plays in shaping personal value.

#### **3.2 The impact of family on personal value**

The family is the social environment that individuals first come into contact with, and the values and behavioral patterns of family members have a particularly significant impact on individuals. The way a family educates, the interaction between family members, and the inheritance of family values all have a profound impact on an individual's values. A good family culture is the cultural foundation of family life. In the family atmosphere, parents' educational methods are directly related to the formation of their children's personalities, and family education plays an irreplaceable and important role in shaping the modern personality of citizens. The family is the first unit for the initial formation of a child's civic consciousness, and the personal virtues and personality consciousness of a child first emerge and grow here. Therefore, the influence of the family is crucial, and a good family culture is an important driving force for maximizing personal value[2]. The upbringing, atmosphere, and educational methods within a family contribute greatly to the development of an individual's personality and virtues. The family is the initial unit in which civic consciousness, personal virtues, and personality consciousness emerge and flourish. A positive family culture lays the foundation for an individual's self-awareness and values, becoming the driving force for maximizing personal value.

#### **3.3 The impact of education on personal value**

Education is closely related to personal value. Psychologist Maslow regards education as the fundamental way for individuals to realize their self-worth, and education has undeniable personal value. The transmission of values, curriculum design, and teachers' educational concepts in the education system will all have an impact on students' self-awareness and values. Education not only provides the transmission of knowledge and skills, but also cultivates individuals' ways of thinking, moral values, and social responsibility[3]. Especially ideological and political education has an important impact on shaping personal values, promoting moral growth, and spiritual development. Ideological education has a tool for personal needs and development, while personal development has a purpose for ideological education. The value of ideological education is divided into social

value and personal value. Personal value leans towards the internal value of ideological education, and its main function is to change, consolidate, and construct personal values. Through spiritual guidance, it can achieve the shaping of personal values, which will have a significant effect on personal moral improvement, ideological influence, and spiritual construction[4]. By strengthening personal values and guiding moral improvement, education has become a powerful tool for the evolution of personal value systems.

### **3.4 On the dimension of social value, the impact of self satisfaction on personal value**

The interweaving of social value and self-worth highlights the dual nature of Marxism's view of human value - the views of society and individuals. Marxism believes that human value is the unity of social value and self value. The social background includes an individual's social status, occupation, socio-economic status, etc. Social background can affect individuals' pursuit and evaluation criteria for power, wealth, social status, etc. The social value of a person lies in their contribution to society, but their self-worth is not equivalent to the treatment of individuals by society. The treatment of individuals by society is neither a person's self-worth nor a person's value, and can only be said to be the "price" of a person - a manifestation of their value. Tian Hao[5] believes that the impact of personal behavior on society determines their social value, and personal sense of achievement and satisfaction constitute self-worth. So human self-worth is the fulfillment of one's own needs through practical activities, which is the significance of one's own existence and development. The balance between social contribution and personal satisfaction forms the foundation of an individual's value within a larger social framework.

### **3.5 The impact of online media on personal value**

In the contemporary digital age, the rise of online media has introduced new dimensions for shaping personal values. Online media provides individuals with a wide range of information sources and communication platforms, enabling different cultures, viewpoints, and values to communicate and collide with each other. The information and viewpoints that individuals come into contact with through online media can have an impact on their personal values. For example, the prevalence of social media makes individuals more susceptible to the evaluation of others and the influence of social standards, thereby adjusting and changing their own values. As a new generation born with the new century, the post-00s have been experiencing the virtual world created by the internet since birth. Through research on the personal values of the post-00s, it was found that the recognition of internet celebrities in the post-00s is significantly higher than that of the post-90s. The recognition of internet celebrities to some extent reflects the impact of the heavily online lifestyle on the post-00s, whose values have begun to converge with the reality of the internet. The acculturation effect of the internet on the values of the post-00s is beginning to emerge[6]; In addition, the post-00s replaced the post-90s in completing the transformation of post materialistic values as a priority value. The individual values of the post-00s were clearly influenced by the dual values of Western individualism in the internet and collectivism in reality, presenting contradictory characteristics that are both related to and fundamentally differentiated from Western individualism values[7].

## **4. Research Prospects**

However, we also need to realize that the formation of personal value is a complex and dynamic process. With the changes in society and technological progress, new influencing factors are constantly emerging, which have a new impact on personal values. For example, the impact of globalization has made communication between different cultures more frequent, and individual values are more susceptible to external cultural impacts and influences. In addition, the rise of the digital age, the popularity of online media, and the prevalence of social platforms have made individuals more susceptible to the evaluation of others and the influence of social standards, posing new challenges and changes to personal values.

Therefore, future research needs to pay more attention to these new influencing factors and delve deeper into their interactions with traditional influencing factors. At the same time, we also need to pay attention to the changes and evolution of personal values, as well as the impact of these changes on social structure and interpersonal relationships. In addition, research should pay more attention to the diversity within different social groups, avoiding excessive binarization of factors such as culture, family, and education. Secondly, research needs to pay more attention to the consideration of dynamic factors, such as changes in family structure. Finally, research should place greater emphasis on multi methodological and multi-level research designs to comprehensively understand the formation and impact mechanisms of individual values. Only by comprehensively understanding the formation and evolution of individual values can we better respond to the challenges brought about by social change and promote sustainable development of human society.

## 5. Conclusion

In summary, this article comprehensively explores the factors that affect personal value, revealing factors such as culture, family, education, society, and online media, which together shape an individual's self-awareness, beliefs, and social roles. A deep understanding of the interrelationships between these factors is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of human behavior and the mechanisms that drive social change. With the continuous development of our world, the study of personal values remains an important pursuit in assisting the development of human society.

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